

KEEPING WELL WATER GOOD

THE NEXT TIME YOU TURN ON THE FAUCET AND FILL A GLASS FROM A HOUSEHOLD WELL, CHANCES ARE YOU'LL SEE CRYSTAL-CLEAR, SPARKLING WATER. THERE'S A GOOD REASON FOR THAT: THE GROUND IS AN EXCELLENT FILTER FOR WATER, AND GROUNDWATER—THE SOURCE WATER FOR HOUSEHOLD WELLS—IS USUALLY OF BETTER QUALITY THAN SURFACE WATER. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN IT COMES TO "TURBIDITY," AN OPAQUENESS OR CLOUDINESS IN WATER CAUSED BY SUSPENDED MATTER. WHEN THE WATER FROM A WELL IS CLOUDY, HOWEVER, THAT COULD MEAN A BREACH IN THE WELL SYSTEM. AND THAT CAN AFFECT THE WATER'S CLARITY, TASTE AND ODOR—AND EVEN PRESENT A HEALTH RISK FROM SUCH CONTAMINANTS AS BACTERIA, VIRUSES AND PROTOZOA. THE FIRST STEP TOWARD SOLVING THIS PROBLEM IS TO HAVE THE WATER TESTED IN A LABORATORY. NEXT, GET A WATER WELL SYSTEM PROFESSIONAL TO INSPECT YOUR WELL SYSTEM. IF WATER TREATMENT IS NECESSARY, A COMMON APPROACH IS FILTRATION AND THEN DISINFECTION. TO LEARN MORE, VISIT THE NATIONAL GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION AT WELL-OWNER--DOT--ORG.